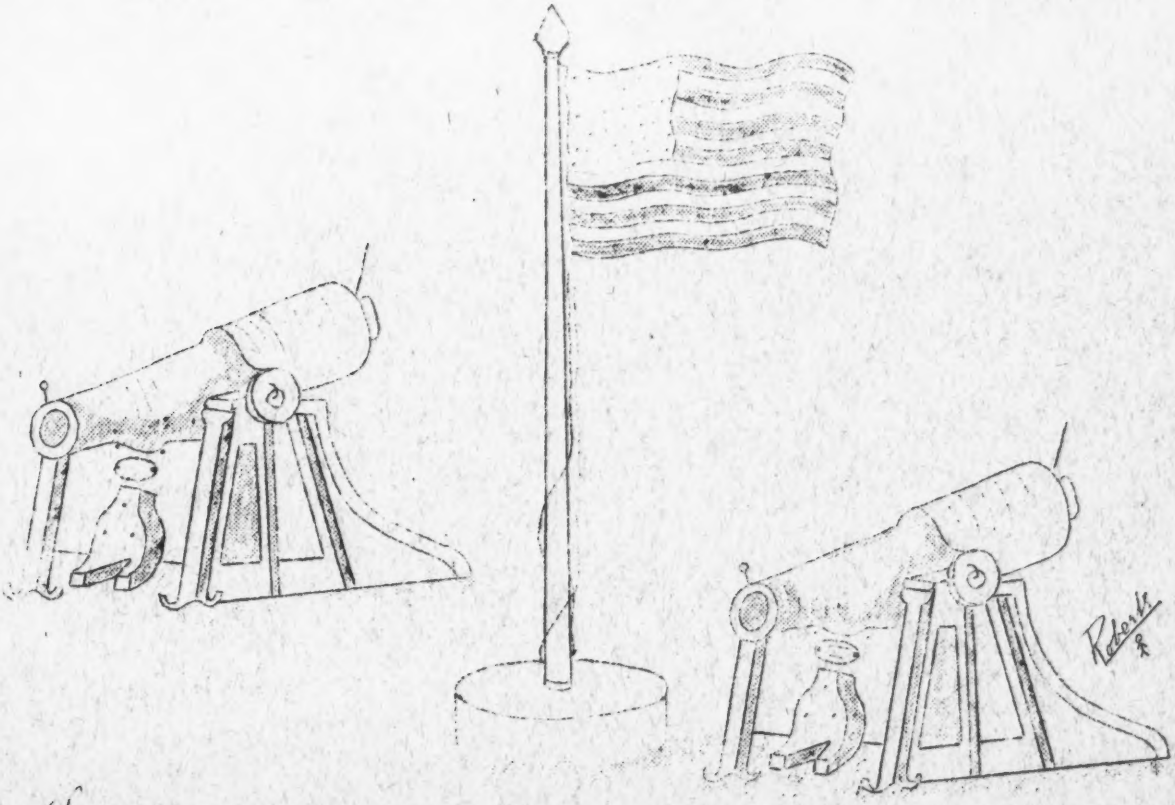
THE STAR

RADIATING THE LIGHT
OF TRUTH ON
HANSEN'S DISEASE.



November 1942
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RADIATING THE LIGHT OF TRUTH ON HANSEN'S DISEASE

Published monthly by the Patients of the United States Marine Hospital, National Leprosarium, Carville, Louisiana.
Instructive or amusing articles, poems, etc. are solicited and will be used as space and occasion permits. All material must be signed.
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"In order that leprosy may be dealt with successfully on a comprehensive scale, and before any large proportion of early cases will come voluntarily for examination, there must be a change in the attitude of the public toward the disease. Any scheme for the control of leprosy will depend for its success on an educated public opinion."

Recommendation of World Conference on Leprosy, Cairo, Egypt, March 1938.

FACTS THAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HANSEN'S DISEASE

The transmission of Hansen's Disease being still unsolved, the medical world classes it as "feebly communicable".

The Leprosarium at Carville was founded forty-eight years ago. To date, not a single member of the personnel has contracted the disease, nor has a case developed in the adjacent neighborhood.

Doctors and nurses take very simple precautions, not comparable with those they would take in dealing with diphtheria, typhoid and other communicable diseases.

Visitors are admitted freely, nor are they required to take any special precautions.

This paper, and all outgoing mail, is sterilized before leaving the hospital.

NEWS FROM THE MOC'S DESK

Dr. G. H.Faget attended the American Public Health Association Convention in St. Louis,October 26 to October 30. Mrs. Faget accompanied him on the trip. At the convention Dr. Faget met health officers from many States. Several of them spoke in high terms of the Carville "Star" saying that they enjoyed reading it every month and passing it on to their friends.

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Dr. F. A. Johansen is being sent by the U.S. Public Health Service to take a special six weeks course in Dermatology at the New York University and Bellevue Hospital in New York City. This will further increase his qualifications in his professional specialty-the diagnosis and treatment of Hansen's Disease.

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Mr. Miller H.Turner,who has replaced Dr. Florence L. Evans in the Hospital Labratory,is a bacteriologist of eight years' experience. He was transferred here from the U. S. Marine Hospital at New Orleans with high recommendations. We wish to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Turner and their three children, who will occupy quarters on the station.

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Dr. A. Mayoral, roentgenologist of the U. S.Marine Hospital, New Orleans, is coming fortnightly to the U.S.Marine Hospital, Carville, as visiting roentgenology consultant. His services in the study of the X-ray bone changes on Hansen's Disease is of great value to the medical staff.

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GOVERNOR'S SISTER VISITS

Miss Febe Jones of De Ridder, La., sister of Governor Sam Houston Jones, visited this hospital on Sunday morning, November 8. Accompanying her were Miss Maria Luz Peroz of Monterrey, Mexico; Mr. Billy J. Wallace of Lake Charles, La.; and Lieutenant -Colonel A. G. Karger, Cincinnati, Ohio. The group motored over from Baton Rouge.

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ARMISTICE DAY

Since 1931 the Marine Hospital Post of the American Legion has always sponsored a gala celebration on Armistice Day. The usual festivities were not held this year because of the war.

CARVILLE'S WAR EFFORT

The patient population of Carville, realizing that the only assistance they can render their country must be aside from military service have gone all out for victory.

Sales of War Stamps in the monthly drives have always been fine but the month of October the patients outdid themselves. The sales of stamps alone amounted in this one drive of two days to $320. 40 which is quite a sum from our meager incomes.

As if this was not enough the Freedom Fair, staged for the benefit of Army and Navy Relief,went over the top with a net profit of $338.44. That constitutes a grand total of $658.84 accumulated in three days.

The tireless efforts of everyone, working voluntarily, to put these two drives over is certainly commendable and the cooperation of the entire patient body in making the campaigns successful is worthy of great praise. A number of patients are buying bonds on the monthly basis and no exact figures are available for these purchases, which if known would boost the monthly total considerably.

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OUR COVER

The large circle of green velvety grass just inside the entrance to the Hospital holds our attention particularly this month when victory is the hope of every American. The imposing flag-pole in the center is flanked on either side by an ancient cannon, sent by the War Department in 1925.

These cannon, diminutive as compared with our present day artillery,have in their time helped to spell VICTORY for Old Glory whose Stars and Stripes are each morning, according to the proper ceremony, unfurled to the breeze. May Old Glory,in our present world crisis, still symbolize the hope for Victory and Peace.

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WORD FROM WILBERT

Wilbert Cambre, our former pharmacy clerk, has just received his warrant as non-commissioned officer- sergeant. He will soon be leaving Camp Rucker, Alabama, for a new camp somewhere in Mississippi. His many friends in Carville congratulate him.

WHAT THE PATIENT SHOULD KNOW ABOUT HANSEN'S DISEASE

This is the fourth in a series of articles written for THE STAR by Dr. G.H. Faget, Medical Officer in Charge.

IV
SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF HANSEN'S DISEASE

The tissues of the body seem to have a remarkable tolerance for Hansen's bacillus and can continue to function adequately while harboring a very large number of them. It is only when their numbers become overwhelming that some loss of function of the affected tissues manifests itself. Seldom are toxins, or poisons, produced by this germ in sufficient amounts to cause generalized symptoms, such as fever, rapid pulse, weakness, sweats, loss of weight and a feeling of ill health. When such attacks occur, they are called acute toxic reactions. These reactions are often accompanied by the appearance of numerous, red, painful, skin nodules. These nodules are commonly called "tubercles". Tubercles may disappear rapidly but are prone to recur in successive crops. At other times red, swollen, tender skin patches are the local manifestations of an acute toxic reaction. These patches of inflamed skin usually occur on the face or limbs and are commonly spoken of by the patient as "red face", "red leg" or "red arm". It has frequently been noted that, following some of these acute toxic reactions, the patient may improve and the disease subside. Many experienced patients look upon them as a temporary evil for a more permanent good.

The Hansen bacillus, as has already been said has a peculiar affinity for two tissues of the body, wherein they multiply. These tissues are the skin and the peripheral nerves. For centuries it has been recognized that there are two main types of leprosy, skin and neural leprosy, in which one of the above tissues is primarily or principally attacked. These two different forms of the disease differ widely in their manifestations. But since both are forms of the same disease, it is not surprising that sooner or later in many patients the two types become superimposed. This occurence results in what is spoken of as the mixed type of Hansen's disease.

The first sign of the nerve type of disease is usually a red spot or several red spots on the skin. Each of these spots signifies involvement of the nerve endings in that area of the skin. As the disease progresses, the spots grow larger and tend to become ring-shaped. With a loss of skin pigment, their centers turn white. There will then be loss of sensation in the center of the spots. This shows that the nerve terminals in the skin have degenerated. The infection then travels up the nerve. When the large nerve trunks become involved, the loss of sensation to touch, pain, heat and cold becomes more extensive. Later, in some cases, there will occur muscular weakness and contraction of the fingers and toes, perhaps with absorption of some of their bones. During the active stage of this form of the disease, there may occur repeated attacks of painful neuritis.

In skin leprosy the first sign may be a nodule or several nodules in the skin or simply spots similar to those of nerve leprosy. In time these nodules become larger in size and more numerous or the spots become thickened and nodular at the edges. Other areas of the skin may then become thickened, and on the face especially, there may be an exaggeration of the natural folds of the skin. Some nodules may break down and ulcerate. These may then heal by scar formation. In the skin and mixed types of the disease in the more advanced stages, certain internal organs of the body may become diseased. The most important of these are the lymph glands, the nose, eyes, throat, kidney, spleen and liver.

Without proper management, Hansen's Disease is prone to be a slowly progressing condition. With careful treatment, the majority of patients do not die of leprosy but live on to die of some other complicating disease. It is seldom that the nerve type of the disease shortens the normal span of life. Indeed it is not uncommon for some patients with the neural type of the disease, because of the extra care given them, to outlive all of their unafflicted brothers and sisters. It

(Continued on page 6)

THAT ODIOUS WORD

By
Stanley Stein

When Elaine Barrie Barrymore was snubbed by cinema society she related her experiences in Liberty Magazine in an article titled HOLLYWOOD TREATED ME LIKE A LEPER. Elmer Davis, now chief of the office of War information, while broadcasting the news over CBS (December, 6, 1941), speaking about Germany, used the phrase "the handshake of a leper," and an editorial writer referred to Japan as "a leper among nations." A sports commentator during the World Series said "an umpire in a baseball game is hated like a leper." In Fall River, Mass., before a large congregation, an evangelist (the hell-fire and brimstone variety), Rev. Russell M. Brougher, recently (October 10, 1942) delivered a sermon comparing leprosy with sin, declaring, "It pays to choose one's associates carefully. When we run around with moral lepers, people who are filthy inside, we cannot but expect for it to have its effects upon us." These are but a few of scores of such objectionable phrases which we could quote from the press, the screen, and the radio.

Most magazines devoted to missionary work, especially foreign missions, reek with the word "leper." From the first to the last page there is a deliberate play on the word. The American Mission to Lepers, one of the most active of this type of organization, recently issued a series of leaflets. In the #1 leaflet they commented, "The word 'leper' is very regretable, carrying with it as it does historic associations of fear, horror and repulsion. These emotional responses to people with leprosy are unjust and very damaging. Accordingly the word will not be used hereafter in these leaflets." In looking over these leaflets we find it regrettable that the word was used several times when it was entirely unnecessary.

If the Mission really want to help in the elimination of the word, it would seem the first step would be to remove it from the title of the organization. We understand that since this is an incorporated group it would require time and expense to make this change; however, it could be done, and there certainly could be a substitution for the cable address of the Mission which is the word "lepers." And how about their monthly mid-west publication which blazons the neme THE LEPER HERALD?

In 1934 Mr. William Danner, secretary-emeritus of the American Mission to Lepers, wrote, "I concur heartily in the sanity of your contention to eliminate the word 'leper' and I am doing my best to encourage my associates to recognize this." To this we add, "It is a consummation devoutly to be wished."

The American Mission is by no means the only offending organization. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the oldest missionary organization in the United States, in its publication, CATHOLIC MISSIONS, has printed disgusting articles ballyhooing the word "leper" and picturing all victims of the disease, "wherever found.", as physical and moral degenerates.

We realize that it is necessary for the missionary organizations to raise funds to continue their foreign missionary work and we appreciate the fact that all who suffer from leprosy have not the same means of facilities that are present to patients in our own United States, but is it necessary to resort to such objectionable exaggerations in exploitation?

In 1931 a most important international conference on leprosy was held under the auspices of the Leonard Wood Memorial in Manila, Philippine Islands. Twenty-three outstanding leprologists attended and during two weeks session the field of leprosy was thoroughly discussed. The 23 men, with different viewpoints, succeeded in coming to a unanimous conclusion on a number of important phases of the leprosy problem. As a result of this conference the present International Leprosy Association was formed.

From a memorandum by Dr. R.C. Cochrane, we quote: "A matter of some importance

(Continued on Page 4)

(Continue from Page 3)

was the decision to endeavor to eliminate the word 'leper' in writings and conversations regarding the disease. The word 'consumptive' is never heard today; and as the word 'leper' carries with it a definite social stigma, it should, as far as possible, be avoided and 'cases of leprosy' or 'sufferers from leprosy' be substituted."

Through the years we have read copies of the International Leprosy Journal. We note that there has not been made, nor is there being made, by scientists who are in a favorable position to pioneer in such a constructive movement, any serious effort to eliminate the word "leper" from the writings of those who contribute to this periodical, notwithstanding the decision of the conference. The scientific publications should set the example to others.

Dr. Cochrane, eminent British leprologist, commented in the International Journal (April-July 1934), "Since the Manila conference I have made efforts never to use the word 'leper' in LEPROSY REVIEW, except in articles which are reprinted, but I notice that the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL uses that word pretty well throughout. Now, most of us have got to take our cue from the JOURNAL, and if it does not intend to keep that word out of medical articles then I see no use in my continuing the solitary fight." In this same issue an officer of the International Leprosy Association, who has to do with its policy, wrote, "With regard to Dr. Cochrane's protest, he has my sympathy. I acknowledge that all the arguments are against the use of the word, but so they are against the use of a good many words which we employ in English. Constant use gives them currency and, as the word currency implies, they could hardly be withdrawn from circulation right away. I plead guilty of the use of 'leper' myself, though I do not employ it as frequently as I used to. I think it is a matter of education, and one that will take time. I suggest that the effort be made to convert the Mission to 'Lepers.' Personally I feel that we should try not to use the word and that gradually we shall get out of it, but I am not a believer in prohibition." Dr. H.W. Wade, Medical Director of the Leonard Wood Memorial and editor of the JOURNAL, states, "To the principle of avoiding a term which in some of its applications carries an unfortunate stigma no objection can be raised. It may certainly be agreed without reservation that as a general proposition the objectionable word should be avoided as far as possible, and that this can be done to a considerable extent, in spite of preference for directness."

We, the patients, do not object to the use of the word "leprosy" when it refers specifically to the disease; however, we believe that it will be necessary to eliminate this term, also, if we are ever to get rid of the word "leper." Perry Burgess, in the appendix of his book, WHO WALK ALONE, says, "The disease and its victims are cursed by being labeled with a name which has come to mean that which the nature of the illness does not in any sense justify. To combat this attitude one of the most effective means would be to change the name. At the Leonard Wood Memorial Conference at Manila the name 'Hansen's Disease' was suggested. Probably no better name could be found. It will require many years to do away with the unjustifiable horror which has been fastened upon it through the centuries. It is one of the most important efforts to be made on behalf of these unfortunate folk."

J.W. Lindsay of Surrey, England, reports in the International Leprosy Journal, that "in Paraguay, South America, the euphonic term in general use for 'leprosy' and 'lepers' is simply 'Hansen.' The word, used in reference to positive cases, gives all the information required in medical consultation or references in the hearing of the patient and his friends and there is no suggestion of the stigma attached to the old and universally odious word 'leper'."

According to Dr. Morris Fishbein, editor of THE JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, "The National Conference on Medical Nomenclature and the Standard Nomenclature of Disease are definitely opposed to the principle of using eponyms for describing diseases when other suitable terms can be employed." Dr. Edwin P. Jordan of A.M.A states, "Eponyms, which are the bane of medical students and record libra-

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continue from Page 4)

rians, have been practically eliminated. Suffice it that the compilers of the Nomenclature have felt that it was unnecessary to allow physicians to confound their students and colleagues by calling some well-known disease after a physician whose name was once associated with it."

Our Medical Officer in Charge Dr. G. H. Faget, probably had the AMA's objection to eponyms in mind when he recently suggested that the term "globinosis" would be a good scientific name for leprosy. Dr. Faget points out that the Hansen germ is the only one which forms itself into "globi" in the body and that "globinosis" would be a more descriptive or accurate term than leprosy. The doctor continues that this substitution would eliminate the word leper "which is an undeserved insult. Tuberculosis and leprosy have always been considered closely allied diseases by the medical profession. Their relationship would be further evidenced by this change in nomenclature. Just as tuberculosis is the disease characterized by the formation of 'tubercles' in the body so globinosis is the disease characterized by the formation of 'globi' in the body. The general public would not associate globinosis with that ancient plague of Bible days. This would be in keeping with the modern concepts of the disease."

Bible historians are of the opinion that among the ancients, leprosy appears to have been a generic term for many varieties of inflamatory skin diseases. The Bible describes the disease as characterized by the presence of smooth, shining, depressed white patches or scales, the hair of which participate in the whiteness---His hand was leprous as snow (Ex.IV,6). We doubt if there is one case of leprosy in Carville, among the 370 patients, that would correspond to this Biblical description. It seems, therefore, that the term leprosy, as applied to the disease as it exists today, is, scientifically, a misnomer.

What's in a name? We, the patients, know there is much in a name. For leprosy is certainly a fine example of living a dog a bad name. It is the word "leper" that fosters the unreasoning dread which in this century of progress still clings to the disease. Even the word, spelled backward, r-e-p-e-l, does not present a pleasant idea. The word leprosy, in the Hebrew language, means "a stroke", and the disease was regarded as the sorest affliction by the hand of God. From this Biblical idea was born the stigma. Is it any wonder that the word "leper" carries with it such social condemnation? For it is not the actual meaning of the word, but the associations which have given it a disagreeable connotation.

In SURVEY GRAPHIC, Emory Ross, General Secretary of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America, in one of the fairest articles on leprosy which we have ever seen published, writes, "The word 'leprosy' is not used in leper colonies. It is 'the disease', or more lately, 'Hansen's Disease'. Indeed, the name 'leper' for the person afflicted with this disease should be dropped from common usage. It is only in case studies that we call those suffering from tuberculosis, tuberculars or individuals with syphilis, syphilitics. Why should we categorize and so set apart the victims of a disease which is far less infectious than tuberculosis or syphilis under a term which through the passing centuries has become symbolic for the unclean, hideous and repulsive? The psychological effects upon the victims of the disease are terrible. The accumulated weight of horror associated with leprosy drives early cases into hiding at the time when the symptoms might most readily be arrested. The attitude of fear and loathing induced by the term 'leper' favors the spread of leprosy. For before the disease can be indubitably recognized as such, the worst period of infectiousness is over, and infection, as far as it can be carried to others, has already done its work."

We agree with Emory Ross and it has long been our contention that the elimination of the word "leper" would not only be a forward step toward breaking down "leprophobia" and the social stigma of leprosy, but we make the prediction that it would play an important part in the control of the disease.

Certainly patients with incipient cases would not try to hide their affliction. And here the writer speaks

(Continued on Page 6)

THE STAR SALUTES DR. JO

On the official records of the U.S.P.H.S. he is listed as Dr. Frederick A. Johanson, executive officer of the United States Marine Hospital, National Leprosarium, Carville, La., but if you were to ask almost any patient about him by that name you would more than likely get a reply something like this: "O, you mean Dr. Jo," for so he is affectionately known to us.

This month, to be exact November 12, marks the 18th anniversary of Dr. Jo's service in this hospital. He came to Carville from Kahoka, Mo., where he was Deputy State Health Commissioner. Dr. Jo's continuous service is longer than that of any other resident physician who has ever been on duty here. He is usually sent to verify a diagnosis and during the years has made many such trips to near and distant points and frequently accompanies the new patient on his never-to-be-forgotten first trip to this Hospital. In this way he has a knowledge and sympathy for the family background of many patients. Thus has been established a mutual bend of understanding which has definite therapeutic value and we regard him, not only as a scientist, but as our counselor and friend. We have no desire to be gushing or to "spread it on too thick" for let it be said here and now that Dr. Jo can be, and has been when the occasion demanded, hardboiled and has made some of us, "mad as the devil," but those incidents do not seem, in retrospect, nearly as numerous or important as the times when he has helped us out of a jam or over a high hurdle.

We wish to observe Dr. Johanson's 18th anniversary by assuring him of our appreciation of all that he has done to help make our way a little less difficult and to wish him many more anniversaries here. May they all be pleasant ones. To borrow some words from old Rip Van Winkle, "Here's to your good health, Dr. Jo, and your family's good health; may you all live long and prosper!"

PERCY SENDS GREETINGS

Dear Friends:

I am in the Lab and assigned Lab Technician for 12th Field Hospital. We will stick as a unit from now on. Don't know how long I'll be here. I missed my Star for October.

I was questioned in class about Hansen's Disease and the Lt. gave me a chance to make a talk on it and I really "got up at bat" for you! Best wishes and health.

Just,

Percy.

DR. FAGET (continued)

is not unusual for any form of the disease to become stationary. Spontaneous arrest may occur at any stage of the disease, with or without residual stigmata or deformities. With proper treatment and under hygienic living conditions, such favorable outcome is of more frequent occurence.

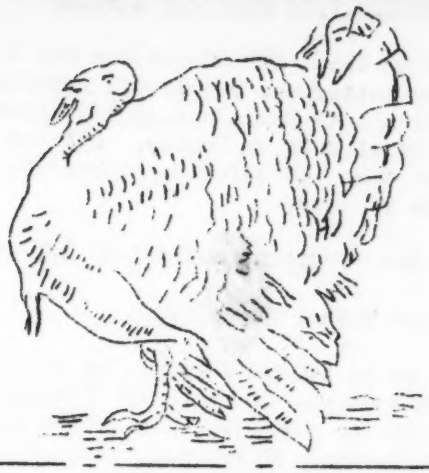
Whenever you do not feel well or develop any unusual symptom, consult your physician. You may be developing some complication of the disease. This, if diagnosed early, is relatively easy to treat, but, if allowed to become advanced, may lead to serious disability and even to death.

THAT ODIOUS WORD (Continued)

from bitter experience.

Julius F. Seeback, formerly of the Columbia Broadcasting System comments, "It is, of course, a gigantic task to attempt to alter a conception that people have held all over the world for many centuries; and to expect them to change suddenly figures of speech which have long been part of the vocabulary of associations, toward which the mind turns unconsciously."

Yes, it is a gigantic task, almost frightening in its immensity; however, the consensus seems to be that it can be done but that it will take time. To this we also agree but now is the time to begin. To this end we set our hearts and lend our strength. Let physician, missionary and layman banish the word "leper", not only from their writings and conversations, but also from their thoughts. May we hope that all who see this will become active agents of our efforts to avoid a word that carries so much that hurts and so little that helps.



THANKSGIVING

What have I, a patient in the National-al Leprosarium, to be thankful for? Is that your thought as you glance at these lines?

Count your blessings and be thankful even as I am counting mine. I, as a citizen of the United States, have the privilege of hospitalization, a home, my clothing, food and an opportunity to earn money to help my country in time of war and myself in time of peace.

Both of us know that we won't be stood up and shot because we can't be soldiers or work in defense factories, as we might be in Axis dominated countries, nor will we be starved to death because the Japs won't let food ships go through to aid us.

We know, too, that the torch won't have to be applied to our fields of waving grain to keep them from falling into enemy hands. No tanks are plowing through our streets. The airplanes that we hear and see so frequently overhead are protecting us from the enemy, not preparing to annihilate us.

Because you may have been born of Jewish parents in no wise intimates that you shall be denied any privilege that I am granted because I was born of Christian parents. We may both worship God according to the dictates of our conscience.

We may listen to the radio programs we like, read the books we prefer, remain ignorant or study to improve our minds without being dictated to by those in authority. Our lives are what we make them in proportion to the opportunities we take advantage of.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Many years ago the Pilgrims
Landed on a dismal shore,
And this little band of people
Knew God would guide them forevermore.

They knew not what awaited them
As they wandered to and fro,
But they knew their Master led them
No matter where they'd go.

It was then faith that led them,
To a flock of birds that day
For they were tired and hungry
And God guided them on their way.

So when the feast was ready
They bowed their heads in prayer
Thanking God for this great blessing,
And His sweet and tender care.

So, dear brethren, this day is set aside
For us to give thanks to Him above,
For His many blessings He bestows
Of kindness and unceasing love.

Oh! do not wait just for this day
To thank our Lord, so dear,
For every day is Thanksgiving
For He blesses us all the year.

Oh! our blessed Lord will bless us,
What we lack, He will supply,
Let us ask in faith believing,
On his promises always rely.

He will ever be our Leader,
Whether smooth or rough the way,
He will prove Himself sufficient,
For the needs of every day.

--Mrs. Emilie Tanner.

When health failed disillusionment and despondency seemed to have beseiged us on all sides. We could see nothing to be thankful for. Time cleared our vision and spurred us on to greater endeavor and if we are honest with ourselves this Thanksgiving season we should be able to express in our hearts a real and meaningful thanks for both temporal and spiritual benefits.

Mentally, compare your discouragements and disappointments with those of the people of the conquered countries, remembering that they, too, did not deserve the treatment they have received and be thankful for your blessings.

A.P.

PROTESTANT CHAPEL NEWS

From October 18 to 28 Rev. and Mrs. Rash were away from Carville to attend the Annual Meeting ofthe American Mission held in New York October 21 to 25. This included the meeting of the Board of Directors and General Conference with regular and volunteer workers and friends of the work, and, also, the Conference and Spiritual Retreat of workers and Missionaries.

At the Annual Banquet Mr. Perry Burgess of the Leonard Wood Memorial reported that the Colony at Culion, P.I. has recently received food supplies and that American and Filipino doctors are still serving there.

It was reported that steps are being taken through various avenues to improve the conditions which have been reported in the Colony in the Virgin Islands.

The Mission has been able to render definite help to the United States Government and to many medical schools and medical societies during the past year by the services of Dr. Eugene R. Kellersberger, the General Secretary of the Mission, who has given lectures regarding leprosy and other tropical diseases, thus helping in the education of medical men who are soon to be serving with the armed forces.

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Visitors to the hospital, guests of Rev. and Mrs. Rash on October 30 were Brigadier and Mrs. Sidney Cox of Atlanta, Ga., Major and Mrs. E. G. MacGillury of New Orleans and Major M.D. Evans of New Orleans. These are all officers of the Salvation Army.

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Rev. and Mrs. Wayne C. Rash, son and daughter-in-law of Chaplain and Mrs. Clifton E. Rash, came in Monday, Nov. 2 for a short visit before taking up their permanent work as Pastor and wife in the new Christian Church Mission in the north part of Baton Rouge. The meetings of the new organization are being held in the Hollywood Grammar School for the present.

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On Sunday, October 25, Rev. Gatt Davidson of the Christian Church of Baton Rouge conducted services in the Memorial Chapel. He gave us an inspiring lesson sermon and we are deeply grateful for his service

COMMUNICATION FROM THE VATICAN

During the month of October the following letter was receivedin Carville. Father Abbott Paul, hospital Chaplain, read it at Mass on Sunday, October 25 and we take pleasure in presenting it to our readers.

From the Vatican, September 12, 1942

My dear Mother Superior,

It is my pleasant duty, at the gracious command of the Holy Father, to acknowledge receipt of the rich Spiritual Bouquet Which you presented to Him, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of His Episcopal Consecration, on behalf of the Sisters and Patients of Carville Leprosarium.

The paternal heart of the Holy Father was deeply touched by this testimonial of your devoted filial attachment to the Vicar of Christ upon earth and He has deigned to command that I send this expression of His appreciative thanks.

As a further mark of His benevolence and in pledge of abundant divine grace, the Sovereign Pontiff imparts to you and all those who contributed to this spiritual treasury, His Apostolic Blessing.

With sentiments of religious devotion, I am

t Sincerely yours in Christ,
L. Card. Maglione

Mother Superior,
Sisters of Charity,
Leprosarium,
Carville, La.

Stars may be seen from the bottom of a deep well, when they cannot be seen from the top of the mountain. So are many things learned in adversity, which the prosperous man dreams not of.

--Spurgeon.

To make no mistakes is not in the power of man, but from their errors and mistakes the wise and good learn wisdom for the future.

--Plutarch.

The way to gain a friend is to be one.

--Michelet

WE HAVE OUR OWN TASK FORCE

After a very interesting visit to the press rooms of The Star to see the Staff in action in getting out an edition of the paper, it seems not too great a strain on the imagination to think of their activities in terms of Navy Task Forces about which we have been hearing and reading a great deal since Pearl Harbor.

These activities include strategy, tactics, logistics, staff work, team work, timing, geography and a slight dash of AWOL. Watching the electric-drive mimeograph machine is fascinating to anyone who likes automatic machinery (and who doesn't); the teamwork of the group assembling and binding the covers and pages requires speedy foot-work, accurate timing and keeping the eye on the ball; the group doing the rolling, sealing and stamping need, among other things, a sense of humor and a knowledge of geography (you'd be surprised at the size of the bundle of Stars destined for addresses in California); and all these actions take place only after the assembling of articles for the issue, dummy-making, censor-passing, stencil cutting and proof-reading have been done.

As can easily be seen the chances for errors to creep in are myriad and when you find the finished product deserves a batting-average of better than .900 you begin to realize how much the members of the Staff deserve a "Well Done" signal when the dead line has been met and another Star goes shooting on the way to you and you and you.

Of course, it might give valuable information to the enemy to describe how The Star's task force is made up, as to cruisers, destroyers, interceptors, medium bombers, blimps, etc., but it should be reported that all were on station and proceeded according to plan, except two volunteer auxiliaries who said they would be back from the Canteen "right away" and help put the paper to bed. These had not been heard from and were long over-due at quitting time, so they must be considered lost. A few other casulties were reported.

So all you readers, when you get your copy of The Star and are entertained (and maybe impressed favorably) by its contents, give a thought to the men--and girls--behind the machinery and sincere effort that got it to you.

W.L.--450

SCHOOL NEWS

The "French Fleet" has come; that is some new French pupils came to school. They are Oscar, Darmas and Dalton. We are glad we have some more company in school. Now there are five of us in the 8th grade. We all take shorthand.

We received our report cards for this month and some are happy and some are sad. Those who had unsatisfactory marks say they will try their best for the next report card period. We are having keen competition in school now. Everyone tries his best to get satisfactory marks.

Darmas and Arthur are studying on their shorthand. They are trying to catch up with us because they just started this month.

Henry Sipin

WHO SAID IT ?

"I consider it a higher merit to have courage to find a way out of misery than to remain in misery because of fear of going the wrong way."

A prize of $1.00 will be given to the reader who submits correct answer to the above. If more than one submits correct answer, prize will be given to the one who, in not over 50 words, gives the best description of circumstances and time when the quoted words were said.

AIN'T IT THE TRUTH

One day the Bull family- Papa, Mama and the little one - started out for a walk. Papa Bull, being big and fat, didn't last long, but stopped to lie down and rest. Mama Bull and the little bull kept on walking for a while, then she, too, got tired and decided to stop awhile. But the little bull went on and on and on--oh, well you know how far a "little bull" goes sometimes.

Words of the Wise

Referring to the article on Compulsory Segregation, I wouldn't venture a professional opinion, but it strikes me that as time goes on and we grow up, some amelioration of the present system may be given a tryout. I assume, in view of the almost complete lack of evidence of transmission, that in a changed scene the public would have to have a considerable education.

---Watson B. Miller,
Washington, D. C.

...-V...-V...-V

The article on Compulsory Segregation in the August Star is wonderful. This is something that I have been attempting to put over in the past 15 or 20 years, ever since I have been active in the cause of leprosy. I feel that, if it were possible to get this message to the general public, we would soon break down the whole barrier of compulsory isolation.

---F. Charles Dock,
New Orleans, Louisiana

...-V...-V...-V

Nature intended that people look ahead---looking behind hinders progress. Reviewing the past and deploring the present does not take care of the future.

---J.D. Riley, M.D.
Supt. State San. Arkansas.

...-V...-V...-V

Leprosy is ten times less contagious than tuberculosis and syphilis.

---- P. R. Outlaw, M. D.
El, Paso, Texas.

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star

John M. Gibson, Director of State Public Health Education, Montgomery, Alabama, writes of his appreciation of The Star.

Dr. B. F. Austin, State Health Department, Montgomery, Alabama, is among our recent subscribers.

From Madison, Wisconsin, comes word from Dr. H.M.Guilford, of the Board of Health, expressing interest in The Star.

Elizabeth Bohnenberger, Director, Bureau of Health Education, Jacksonville, Florida, has sent a subscription for the State Board of Health Library.

Dr. R.H.Riley, Director, Department of Health, State of Maryland, is among the readers of The Star.

Dr. G. F. Mathews of Oklahoma State Health Department, says, "We have been receiving The Star for some time and have found it to be an interesting publication."

...-V...-V...-V

We were pleased to comply with a recent request from the Medical Department of the University of Texas at Galveston for a complete file of The Star. Miss Mildred N. Robertson, the assistant Librarian of the University says, "The Stars will be put to good use."

...-V...-V...-V

A patient at the leprosarium in Christiansted, St. Croix, Virgin Islands, is enthusiastic about the August number of The Star. She writes, "We would like to run Dr. Faget's series in the daily paper of a nearby town. But what hits the spot with a direct bull's-eye is E.Record's Compulsory Segregation. It is something our people out here stand in dire need of hearing. I've never read anything as complete and powerful in four short columns anywhere else. He seems to have opened the heart of each patient, taken out their sentiments, and printed them on two pages of The Star."

"Do you rest every afternoon?" asks our interested young Doctor very frequently. Truthfully we answer, "We go to bed." Mentally we observe that resting is a horse of a different color.

It is amazing the numbers of noises that interrupt that in between slumber and waking period and rouse you to full consciousness.

If confined to the first floor of the hospital near the operating and ex-ray rooms life takes on interesting proportions during the rest period. The operating room must be kept spotless so the eternal scrubbing is in progress. A garbagecontainer must never be moved by hand, it scoots so nicely along the soapy floor until it comes into contact with a similar object making resounding clatters down the corridor. Dropping dust pans to the floor is so much simpler than placing them where you want them. If they don't drop in the right position at the first attempt then push them hither, thither and yon until they are in the desired location. The discussion between the operating room and ex-ray room attendants of the game at noon is very informative. From the words flung back and forth across the hall the resting (?) patients are pretty confident they could play the game. A tray full of dishes dropped on the tile floor of the hospital kitchen causes you to clamber out of bed to see if the Japs are attacking the hospital.

As you lie there you wonder what is going on in the house right now. You are sure of one thing, Santa Claus is there hollering from the front room all the way down the hall,"Santa Claus Mrs. Jones, Miss Smith, Mrs. Black, Mrs. Brown, Santa Claus." No response so it begins again. Then from the last room in the house Miss So-and-So feels slighted. Her name wasn't called so she yells, "Santa Claus, did you bring me anything?" Of course,he should know who "me" is but for the sake of conversation he asks: "Who is 'me'?" "I'm Miss So-and-So and I ordered a spool of thread." You wish it were rope you'd like to use it to hang her by.

By this time everyone, but you, has decided to get up. They begin holding animated conversations right outside your door about yesterday's ball game or the latest bit of gossip, to lull you off to slumber land. You should be ready to get up they assume because they are. And when you finally do surrender and get up they say so sweetly "Did you have a nice rest?"

You in turn wonder why you go through the efforts of undressing, pulling down the shades, etc. to woo sleep when the whole population are dead set against your sleeping.

Now, don't get me wrong. I'm not complaining or grumbling but just want you to knew that the most entertaining hours of the day are during the "rest period". Haven't you found it so? No chance of getting lonely either, too much happening.

The Town Crier.

Hear Ye Hear Ye

Smiling Charley they call him and is he a ladies' man! Why, just the other Sunday to please one of the fair sex donned her lacy bonnet with all the ribbons on it and posed for a snapshot

...-V...-V...-V

Have you noticed something unusual growing between Houses 30 and 31 and wondered what it was? One patient thought it was English peas but inquiry brought out the fact that it was peanuts planted and carefully tended to by Rufus.

...-V...-V...-V

Such a stir and such a bustle going on in the tea room of House 18-2 one afternoon recently. Almost all of the girls in the house were gathered to assist in the preparation of a coconut cake, fried chichen and salad. This is one time when too many cooks did not spoil the broth for everyone agreed the dinner was tops.

It was a birthday celebration for Doroth and Gennyrosa.Congratulations girls!

...-V...-V...-V

Passing Adams chichen yard the other day what a picture we beheld. Melchor attired in an apron was sitting down completely surrounded by baby chicks.

...-V...-V...-V

Excitement and enthusiasm among the local baseball fans, and there are many, was high during the World Series. Bets ranged all the way from a postage stamp, a coke, cigarettes and upwards to dimes and dollars.

Gene sent a letter to radio station WJEO expressing our appreciation for the daily broadcasts of the games during the Series.

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Nutting is a popular and profitable pastime now. We have pecan tress all over the place and folks are busy gathering nuts while the weather is fine. Old timers know which tress bear the largest pecans but everyone seems to be getting their share.

Some of the more energetic patients are shelling them and selling them to others by the pound.

"Johnny Presents"--Beethoven, Brahms and Bach to say nothing of Strauss, Tschaikowsky, Chopin and Kreisler.

Music lovers, about 50 of them, accepted his invitation, which had been posted on the bulletin board, and gathered in the Ballroom on Friday evening, October 23 for an hour's Concert of RCA Victor Red Seal Master Work Records. The program was well arranged and thoroughly enjoyed. The records played are part of Johnny's fine private collection and he promises another treat soon.

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One of the patients, recently returned from a trip home, tells us that if any car on the highway speeds up to pass you exceeding 35 miles an hour you simply sound three dots and a dash on the horn. The offending driver slows up and answers your signal.No officers are needed for this is an example of democracy in action.

...-V...-V...-V

It is not a military secret that we are prepared'. Air raid shelters have been designated and an observatation post is here to report on all planes flying over our bend of Old Man River.

...-V...-V...-V

Halowe'en this year was much quieter than usual. We danced to recordings and no costumes were used.

The mischief makers were afoot tho! The morning after the night before things were quite topsy-turvy. Bicycles were everywhere but where they belonged. Perch furniture was hither, thither and yon. All the pranks were innocent ones, lots of laughs and no harm done.

...-V...-V...-V

FAMOUS LAST WORDS: Oh, why did I bet on the Yankees ?

Gregory

PERSONNEL PERSONALS

By Mary E. Browne

The first meeting of the newly organized Bridge Club, to meet every third Thursday of the month, was held in the Personnel Recreation Room during October. Mesdames Faget and Engler were hostesses. A tempting plate lunch was served to 30 guests and members.

Everyone present admired the attractive new furnishings of the room. The ladies under the leadership of Mrs. Faget had made and hung new draperies, new bridge tables and floor lamps had been placed. Flowers and ferns added to the cozy and charming atmosphere of the room.

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Mrs. Lawrence O'Leary of South Dakota and Mr. and Mrs. Hunsiger of Pennsylvania were interesting visitors recently. They were the guests of relatives among the personnel.

...-V...-V...-V

Jesse Earl Roberts of the Administrative Office has enlisted in the Navy and Bennie Engler of the Material Office joined the Army. Both of these young men have been employed at the station for a number of years. They and their families will be keenly missed.

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The ladies' Friday afternoon Bridge Club met twice during the month with Mrs. Gilmore and with Mrs. Gleason. Enjoyable afternoons were spent with each hostess.

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We welcome back Mr. and Mrs. R.C.Pogge who are visiting at the quarters of Dr. R.C.Pogge.

...-V...-V...-V

Seaman Chester LeSage has completed his preliminary training, and was here recently visiting home folks and friends.

...-V...-V...-V

We also welcome Mrs. Ruth A. Hudson, who is now employed in the Administrative office.

We welcome Mr. Miller R. Turner who is now employed at this station. Congratulations are in order, too, for Mr. Turner is the proud father of a new daughter, born during the month of October. Folks on the station are looking forward to making the acquaintance of the family.

...-V...-V...-V

News comes from Dr. Florence Evans that she is now located in Little Rock, Arkansas, with the State Board of Health as Associate Bacteriologist, States Relations Division, U.S.Public Health Service.

...-V...-V...-V

On Friday, October 9th before the show in the Personnel Theatre a handsome trophy was awarded Dr. B.M.Prejean for the "hole-in-one" which he made on the local Golf Course during September. The presentation was made by Dr. Faget, of the Marine Hospital Golf Club.

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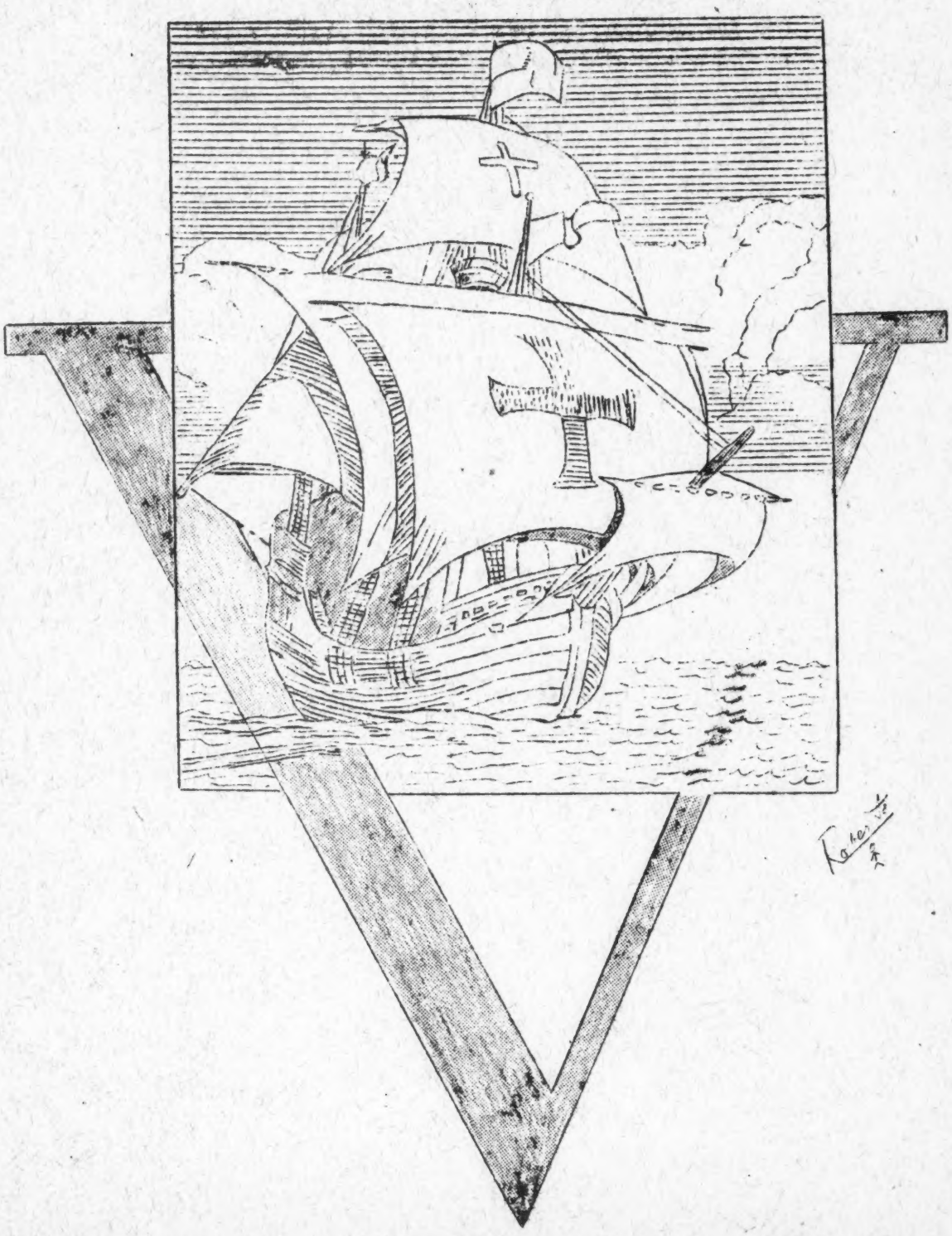
A "Kickers' Tournament" was held on the Station Golf Course, October 3rd and 4th, the requirements were an entrance fee of 10 cents and the playing of 18 holes in the 2 days, and each entrant to indicate his own handicap. The final reckoning showed a tie for first prize (War Stamps, $1.50). The two winners were Mrs. B. M. Prejean and Dr. R.C.Pogge the latter winning finally thru elimination by cutting. After the close of the tournament, the participants were invited to Dr. Prejean's home for refreshments.

...-V...-V...-V

On October 10 and 11, there was a "Flag Tournament" on the personnel golf course. Each participant was given a flag, to be put down on the golf course at that point where the total strokes used were the equivalent of Par (70) plus that individual's handicap.

First prize, a golf ball, went to Perry Butler, and second and third runners up were Guy Edmond Faget and Leo Huevel.

Full Sails Ahead..